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Total number of deaths for corresponding week last year.....	594
Mean of corresponding week previous five years	544
Allowing that one-half the population has left the city, the proportionate number of deaths based on the mean of previous five years would be.....	272
Number of deaths last week that may be attributed to plague.....	869
Average per day from plague.....	124
Number of deaths from plague officially reported for week.....	496
<hr/>	
Average per day	71
Probable average number of deaths per day from plague reported as having died of other diseases.....	53
<hr/>	
Officially reported death rate for the last week per 1,000.....	124
Same for corresponding week last year.....	70. 87
Mean for corresponding week previous five years.....	35. 81
Number of births reported last week.....	32. 90
Number of births for corresponding week last year.....	89
Mean number for corresponding week previous five years	234
	240

C. F. MEYER,
United States Vice-Consul.

ITALY.

International Sanitary Conference.

ROME, ITALY, *March 29, 1897.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose my report dealing with the general features and conclusions of the International Sanitary Conference recently held at Venice.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WALLACE S. JONES,
Consul-General of the United States at Rome, Diplomatic Representative on the part of the United States to the International Sanitary Conference at Venice.

HON. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure.]

REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONFERENCE HELD AT VENICE (FEBRUARY 16 TO MARCH 19, 1897).

Venice made her first commercial ventures in the East, and in consequence was soon visited by the pest. From the year 900 to 1500 she experienced 63 epidemics. This little republic was the first to introduce a sanitary system. In 1341 she created health inspectors, a sanitary bureau, and a lazaretto, which served as models to the rest of Europe. It seems but fitting, therefore, that an international sanitary conference, called to devise means to prevent the pest from reaching Europe should choose this city for its sittings.

The first international sanitary conference was held in Paris in 1851; the second in 1859. The object of this conference was to revise the proceedings of the first, but its labors were interrupted by the breaking out of the war between Austria and Italy. Subsequent international sanitary conferences were held in Constantinople in 1866; Vienna, 1874; Washington, 1881; Rome, 1885; Venice, 1892; Dresden, 1893; Paris, 1894. Only the decisions of the last three international conferences have been carried out.

The convention of the Venice conference of 1892 was the first international agreement ever ratified by the Great Powers. This was due, probably, to the fact that prior to 1892 the resolutions were based on quarantine detention, i. e., after a voyage it was deemed necessary to quarantine ships with clean bills of health, without a single suspicious case on board; this regulation being based on the theory that a case of sickness might yet break out. For over fifty years Great Britain has been opposed to quarantine measures and has never been willing to enter into an international agreement upon this basis.

The Venice conference of 1892 was held to devise means for keeping the cholera out of Europe by preventing it from passing the Suez Canal. The representatives of the Powers in drawing up their measures substituted, from a medical standpoint, the sanitary condition of the vessel in the place of the sanitary condition of the port of departure, abolishing long and vexatious quarantines for ships carrying out their regulations, thus replacing the old system of quarantines by one of inspection and disinfection (*étuves*). Thanks to this conference, the sanitary council of Alexandria was empowered to enforce the above measures, and was so reorganized as to give Europe satisfactory guarantees of its efficiency, both in its composition and workings.

The Dresden conference of 1893 devised international measures of prophylaxy to be applied the moment cholera reached Europe, and laid the basis of an international bond of union in sanitary matters, by establishing the principle of notification of the existence of a cholera focus.

The conference of Paris, 1894, met to devise means for confining cholera to its place of origin, India, and the far East. The annual pilgrimage of thousands of Mussulmans to Mecca is the great source of danger to Europe. Cholera is endemic in India, and whenever it has appeared in Europe it has invariably been imported from the East. Fully one-third of the pilgrims are indigent, and beggars furnish the principal food for epidemics. This conference, therefore, prescribed prophylactic measures applicable to pilgrims going to the Hedjaz and measures of surveillance in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf.

Upon the initiative of Austria-Hungary, the International Sanitary Conference that has just adjourned, met in Venice, February 16, to devise means for preventing the bubonic pest, now prevailing in India, from reaching Europe. There were present diplomatic and technical delegates representing each of the Powers of Europe, the United States, Persia, and Egypt. Morocco alone, by some oversight not being represented. Austria-Hungary was represented by 10 delegates; Belgium by 2, Bulgaria by 1, Denmark by 1, Egypt by 2, France by 4, Germany by 3, Great Britain by 6, Greece by 1, Holland by 2, Italy by 5, Luxembourg by 1, Montenegro by 1, Persia by 1, Portugal by 3, Roumania by 2, Russia by 4, Servia by 1, Sweden and Norway by 3, Switzerland by 2, Turkey by 3, and United States by 2, each delegation having but one vote.

The conference was at once organized and elected for its president Count Bonin-Longare, under secretary for foreign affairs for Italy, and diplomatic delegate, and appointed six secretaries.

President Bonin welcomed the delegates in the name of the King of Italy, and returned thanks to the Austro-Hungarian Government, which had taken the initiative in suggesting that the conference should meet in Venice. He said that the problem now to be solved by the conference was simpler than those proposed to previous conferences, it being no longer necessary to discuss theories at large, from which to select rules for an international sanitary code, but to apply to the special danger now threatening us the principles already established by previous conferences, adapting them to the particular requirements of the present sanitary situation; and furthermore, thanks to the improvement in prophylactic systems, the conflict that had always existed between the commercial interests and the requirements for the public health was no longer so sharply defined, but that it might, with reason, be hoped that an unanimous agreement on all points would be happily reached.

Count Lützow, diplomatic delegate of Austria-Hungary, in reply, said the conference had been called to amplify the work that had been begun at Venice in 1892, continued at Dresden in 1893, and again taken up at Paris. The first step to be taken was to ascertain if the measures that had been adopted against the invasion of the cholera were equally well suited to keep out the Asiatic plague. He then offered a draft of a programme to be presented to the International Sanitary Conference to be held at Venice, February 16, 1897, and prepared by the Austro-Hungarian delegation to serve as a basis for the deliberations of said conference. The president then read the programme, which is as follows:

First.—Particular aspects of the plague, as disclosed by the most recent investigations taken in relation to: (a) Its places of origin; (b) Its propagation by land and sea; (c) Its incubatory period. Application of the results of this investigation to paragraphs I to IV and VII of the Dresden convention.

Second.—Measures to be taken for preventing an invasion of the malady:

(1) From the countries where it originates—(a) by maritime traffic with infected ports to the ports of arrival; (b) by pilgrimage to Mecca and Mesopotamia; (c) by the establishment of an intelligence department and sanitary ports under European management—reorganization of the sanitary council of Teheran.

(2) As regards maritime traffic with infected ports—(a) at departure of vessels carrying passengers, of vessels carrying freight, of vessels carrying pilgrims, of other vessels;

(b) in transit of vessels carrying passengers, of vessels carrying freight, of vessels carrying pilgrims, of other vessels.

Examination of the expediency of revising the sanitary regulations relating to intermediate ports at the arrival of vessels carrying passengers, of vessels carrying freight, of vessels carrying pilgrims, of other vessels.

In regard to the advisability of modifying paragraph VIII of the Dresden convention and making changes in the regulations of the Venice convention relating to transit in quarantine. The conference will also discuss the necessity of obtaining the sanction and ratification of the Paris convention by all the Powers that took part in that conference.

Third.—Measures to be taken in case the plague makes its appearance in Europe.

Eventual application or modification of the decisions of the Dresden conference.

QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED.

I. Is a pandemic propagation of the plague to be feared and what would lead to its occurrence?

Measures to be taken in countries in which it prevails.

II. What primary measures are necessary to prevent the spreading of the plague in Asiatic countries where it chiefly prevails?

(a) At the ports, so far as exercising sanitary surveillance not only over vessels arriving but also over vessels departing?

(b) Is it necessary to take special measures for the surveillance and even the stoppage of caravans coming from infected or uninfected countries during the course of an epidemic of the plague in adjoining countries? What measures should be taken in regard to pilgrimages and the transportation of corpses from holy places in Armenia, Persia, and Mesopotamia? What measures are necessary for the establishment of an international intelligence department and the organization of international sanitary supervision in Persia?

Measures to be taken during the voyage.

III. Are the precautionary measures regarding traffic, adopted by the Venice conference of 1892, sufficient, or should they be modified, and in what way?

Measures relative to pilgrims going to Mecca.

IV. Are the measures regarding pilgrimages to Mecca, proposed by the conferences of Paris and Venice, sufficient to ward off danger from plague, or should they be made more stringent?

Measures at the European ports of arrival and at the land frontiers.

V. In regard to the sanitary service at ports of arrival in Europe and along the land frontiers, are the measures adopted by the Dresden conference applicable to plague, and, if not, what additional or modified arrangements should be made? What is the incubation period of the pest? How long should sanitary surveillance last?

This important and comprehensive programme, in the main, was accepted for discussion by the members of the conference, and led to lengthy debates; the members showed a conciliatory spirit, and did their utmost to further the interests of the several nations.

The rules and regulations of the Dresden conference of 1893 were adopted—the meetings to be held with closed doors, the deliberations to be carried on in French.

At the second meeting, Ambassador Barrière, French delegate, said the pilgrimage to Mecca was the chief cause of the evil, and he hoped that the Powers, with Mussulman subjects, would prohibit, for this year, said pilgrimage; that the French Government had already taken the strongest measures in this connection, adding that the fundamental principle of the prophylaxy of to-day was to raise as few barriers to the transportation of passengers and freight as possible compatible with the preservation of the public health. He formulated the work before the conference as follows:

“Ratification and application of the Paris convention of 1894: Adaptation of this instrument and of the conventions of Venice and Dresden in keeping out the pest.”

The Russian delegate announced that his Government had not only prohibited the pilgrimage of its Mussulman subjects to Mecca for this year, but also the pilgrimage of its Christian subjects to Palestine.

The British delegation announced that Her Majesty's Government had prohibited the pilgrimage from India for this year.

The Persian delegate announced that his Government had forbidden, for this year, the pilgrimage to Meched.

The Egyptian Government has taken the following steps concerning the pilgrimage to Mecca :

(1) The inhabitants of Egypt have been notified that in case the plague should break out at Mecca no Egyptian pilgrim would be allowed to return home until the scourge had entirely disappeared in the province of Hedjaz.

(2) Orders have been given to all harbor masters and officers, charged with the inspection of passports, to allow only such persons to go as shall be possessed of sufficient means for the journey both going and returning, and for a sojourn of at least six months in the Hedjaz.

The Turkish delegation announced that it would be impossible for its Government to prohibit the pilgrimage to Mecca, it being one of the five tenets of the Mohammedan religion, but that moral suasion would be brought to bear in order to discourage the pilgrimage.

The Roumanian delegation announced that their Government had advised its Mohammedan subjects against the pilgrimage and had prescribed severe sanitary measures to be taken upon the return of pilgrims from Mecca.

The British delegation announced that their Government had consented to ratify the Paris convention with the following reservations :

1. (Paragraph 5 of Part A of Annex I of the convention.) Pilgrims from India shall not be required to show that they possess sufficient means to make the pilgrimage, both going and returning, and to support themselves during their stay in Mecca, unless in certain localities circumstances should make it necessary.

2. (Article 13 of the rules forming Section B of Annex I.) The minimum space to be reserved between decks for each pilgrim shall be 16 English square feet ; that is, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ square meters.

3. (Annex III, sanitary regulations and sanitary stations of the Persian Gulf.) The stipulation relative to the Persian Gulf shall not be applicable to the British and Indian Governments or to British or Indian vessels.

The Turkish Government announced its adhesion to the Paris convention, with certain reservations.

The delegate from Sweden and Norway announced the ratification of the Paris convention by his Government.

This (Paris) convention has not yet been ratified by Roumania, Portugal, and Switzerland.

The Austrian delegation announced the arrival in India of a scientific expedition sent out by their Government to study the pest, and added that a supply of pest serum could be had from the hospitals in Vienna.

The German delegation announced that their Government had organized a medical expedition to go to India to study the character and nature of the plague, the expedition to be composed of Professor Dr. Gaffky and Professors Pfeiffer, Dieudonné, and Sticker. This mission will not only visit Bombay, but also the infected localities in the interior ; returning it will inspect the sanitary conditions of the Persian Gulf and visit the sanitary stations of the Red Sea and of the Suez Canal.

The Russian delegation announced that their Government had just sent Prof. N. Wyssokowitsch and Drs. Redrow and Labohtny to India, that they may make a scientific study of the pest.

Two general committees were formed to carry on the work of the conference in "adopting the Paris convention of 1894 and the Venice and Dresden conventions for keeping the pest out of Europe."

(1) The technical committee composed of the scientific and medical delegates.

(2) The committee on ways and means composed of the diplomatic delegates, to whom the findings of the technical committee were to be submitted.

The general technical committee took up the programme suggested by the Austro-Hungarian delegation. The questions to be discussed were: (1) Scientific questions; (2) practical questions.

The general technical committee devoted itself to the scientific questions, and it was divided into two subcommittees.

First, subcommittee to establish "measures to be taken outside of Europe," namely, in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf; second, subcommittee to establish measures to be taken in Europe.

The first subcommittee approved of applying the measures adopted against cholera by the Venice conference of 1893, with certain modifications that were found necessary for keeping the bubonic pest out of Europe.

The second subcommittee also approved of adopting the measures of the Dresden conference of 1893 against the spreading of cholera in Europe with certain modifications judged necessary to the excluding of the pest from Europe.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Geddings, in his report to the Surgeon-General of the United States Marine-Hospital Service, will fully discuss these measures.

Professor Von Ermengen, one of the most eminent living bacteriologists, after a thorough discussion of the etiology of the pest had been gone into, reported the findings of the general committee. Thanks to the recent triumph of microbiology, the nature and true cause of the pest are no longer mysteries. It is universally admitted that it is of microbic origin and due to the bacillus discovered in Hongkong in 1894 by Kitasato and Yersin. But although the discovery of the specific germ of the malady throws a very bright light on its etiology, many problems nevertheless still remain to be solved.

The learned specialists, recently sent to Bombay by their respective governments, will doubtless, ere long, enlighten us on many questions of the highest importance.

This committee carefully abstained from founding its conclusions on hypotheses or experiments that could not be substantiated.

What is the origin, and in what manner is the pest germ propagated? What morbid secretions should be considered contagious and for how long a time? The committee was of the opinion that the specific microbe exists in several morbid secretions, namely, in the pus of the buboes and anthrax, in the feces and sputa, and in the blood. The bodies of those dying of the pest contain innumerable germs.

Not only sick persons spread the disease, but animals also contribute to the spreading thereof, as has been observed during the recent epidemic in India and China.

The susceptibility of rats, mice, and small rodents is well known. They die in great numbers in pest-stricken districts, sometimes even before the epidemic makes its appearance. Their dead bodies have been found in great numbers in dwellings where fatal cases have occurred. This fact deserves our serious attention. Not only do these animals introduce and propagate the contagion in towns, but they are liable to take it on board vessels and thus carry the scourge to distant countries. Strenuous efforts, therefore, should be made to destroy these vermin; and all articles and merchandise soiled by their excrements and dead bodies should be considered as dangerous.

According to some students dogs, hogs, oxen, sheep, goats, etc., are attacked by the pest. It is still doubtful whether birds, pigeons, fowls suffer from this disease. Yersin's experiments show that mosquitoes and insects can convey the germ.

As a precautionary measure the governments of Europe decided to prohibit the importation of green hides and of diverse animal products. The committee was of the opinion that this measure up to date is only founded on hypothetical premises.

One of the most interesting facts that epidemiological science owes to recent researches is the discovery of the existence of the contagious principle in the soil of thickly settled localities. This discovery explains local telluric conditions long since noticed, and also why the pest spreads slowly, whereas cholera spreads rapidly along lines of communication, especially water routes.

When the microbe is removed from soil saturated with the filth from dwellings, it seems to lose its virulency as a saprophyte. Hence we may doubt whether bales of merchandise that have been lying on wharves at a distance from infected quarters should be considered dangerous or even suspicious.

The only soil in which the pest bacillus has been found is the soil of unfloored huts and houses. In huts occupied by persons stricken with the pest, the bacillus has been found at a depth of from four to five centimeters. This soil bacillus is but slightly virulent.

It has not been proved that running water has helped to disseminate the germ. The committee nevertheless deemed it prudent to recommend that a strict watch be held over all drinking water, as certain experiments show that the bacillus lives fourteen days in water.

And lastly, experiments both old and new, prove that the generating principle of the pest, when exposed to the air, soon loses its morbid activity. Hence, the pest is not transmitted by atmospheric currents to a long distance, and is only contagious within a limited radius. The pest germ offers but a slight resistance to desiccation and to germicides in general.

The committee next took up the important question as to what merchandise should be considered as most likely to convey the germ of the pest. Wearing apparel belonging to the pest-stricken or brought from an infected locality was declared highly dangerous, especially if packed without regard to its having a free circulation of air.

The following is a list of articles declared dangerous by the committee: Underwear, clothing, bedding having been in use, rags from contaminated countries or districts, including rags in bales bound with iron ties, hoofs, wool, bristles, hair of all kinds, fresh skins and untanned leather, bags and carpets having been in use.

The following articles were declared not to be dangerous: Green plants, fresh and dried fruit, grain, jute, cotton, silk.

To apply prophylactic measures to advantage it was first necessary to determine the period of incubation of the pest. The committee, in fixing the period of surveillance at ten days, did not intend to establish in a positive and scientific manner the maximum number of days during which the disease may exist in a latent state, but that isolation for that period was advisable.

The committee, while expressing the hope that the serotherapy of the pest might give results similar to those supplied by other serums, was unwilling, at the present stage of our knowledge, to formally recommend preventive injections of antipest serum.

The committee, in prescribing the modifications in the methods of disinfection adopted up to date, took the measures against cholera framed by the first Venice conference for the basis of their discussions.

Synopsis of measures to be taken outside of Europe.

The conference has decreed that the international sanitary stations on the island of Camaran and at the Springs of Moses in the Red Sea shall be enlarged, said stations being under the jurisdiction of the Alexandria sanitary council. It further ordered that sanitary stations shall be established on the Straits of Ormus, at the entrance of the Persian Gulf, and at Bassorah, at the head of the Gulf, these stations being under the supervision of the sanitary council of Constantinople.

The funds necessary to create and keep up these stations are raised by a small toll collected from each shipload of pilgrims, said toll being added to the price of each pilgrim's ticket. A small percentage of the light-house dues in the canal, collected by the Egyptian Government, is also added to the fund.

The ships navigating the Red Sea and Persian Gulf are classified as follows:

Ships indemne, i. e., ships declared free from suspicion by medical authority; suspected ships, i. e., ships on board of which there has been one or more cases of pest, either at the port of departure or during the voyage, but without a new case for twelve days; and infected ships, i. e., ships having the pest on board, or that have had cases of pest within twelve days.

Indemne ships shall have immediate free pratique whatever be the nature of their bills of health. These ships shall be permitted to pass through the Suez Canal in quarantine and will enter the Mediterranean and complete their ten days of observation during their voyage before reaching their port of destination.

Suspected ships having a physician and a disinfecting apparatus (étuve) shall be allowed to pass through the canal in quarantine. Suspected ships having neither a doctor nor an étuve shall be detained at the Springs of Moses until the soiled underwear and other articles susceptible of contamination are disinfected.

Infected ships having neither doctor nor étuve shall be detained at the Springs of Moses. The ships shall be thoroughly disinfected, the passengers shall land and all their wearing apparel shall be disinfected. The passengers must remain ten days at the Springs of Moses—when the cases of pest are of several days standing the duration of isolation shall be shortened. The length of time of their detention shall depend upon the date of the appearance of the last case, never longer than ten days. Infected ships having a doctor and an étuve shall be stopped at the Springs of Moses. The physician shall declare under oath the passengers that are attacked by pest, and they shall be landed and isolated; the soiled wearing apparel of the other passengers and crew shall be disinfected on the ship. The part of the ship that has been occupied by the sick shall be completely disinfected. After disinfection of the ship she shall be allowed to proceed in quarantine, provided it shall have left at the sanitary station its sick and such persons as were brought in contact with them.

Rigorous measures have been adopted for maintaining the best possible hygienic and sanitary conditions on board pilgrim ships and for preventing all danger of the spreading of the pest. These measures include the steps to be taken before departure, during the voyage, and in case of illness or death among the pilgrims. Such captains as do not carry out the regulations as above laid down shall incur severe penalties.

Synopsis of measures to be taken in Europe.

The government of a country in which the pest has appeared shall immediately notify all other governments.

The importation of the following articles from an infected district may be prohibited:

(1) Wearing apparel and bedding that have been in use; (2) rags, when packed and shipped in bales; (3) sacks and carpets that have been in use; (4) hides, green and untanned; (5) hoops, bristles, raw silk, and wool; (6) hair of all kinds.

The disinfection of soiled linen, clothing, and furniture from an infected district shall be obligatory.

The local sanitary authorities shall decide as to merchandise to be disinfected. Merchandise shall not be held in quarantine at the frontier. Total prohibition or disinfection are the only measures admissible.

Letters, papers, and books shall not be subjected to any restriction or disinfection whatever.

Railway passenger coaches, postal and baggage cars shall not be detained at the frontier. Only the car in which a case of pest has been found shall be detained, and then only long enough for its disinfection. Passengers shall be subjected to a medical visit. The several governments reserve the right to take special measures concerning certain classes of persons, such as gypsies, vagabonds, emigrants, and such persons as travel or cross the frontiers in bands.

Sanitary measures are to be carried out in Europe in accordance with the sanitary policy of each nation. Land quarantines are abolished, only such persons as show symptoms of pest can be detained, but each country reserves the right to close its frontiers against suspected persons or persons stricken by the pest.

Ships plying between European ports are also classified into indemne, suspected, and infected.

Indemne ships shall be given immediate free pratique, whatever the nature of their bill of health.

Suspected ships shall be subjected to the following measures: Medical inspection. Disinfection of wearing apparel and soiled clothes of passengers and crew. The bilge water, after it has been disinfected, shall be changed and a supply of good drinking water shall be taken on board. Such parts of the ship as shall have been used by pest-stricken patients shall be disinfected.

Infected ships shall be subjected to the following measures: The sick shall be immediately landed and isolated. All the ship's passengers shall be landed and put under surveillance for a shorter or longer period, according to the sanitary condition of the ship and the date of the development of the last case of pest, but not exceeding ten days. (By observation is meant the isolation of the passengers, either on shipboard or in a lazaretto, before they are given free pratique. By surveillance is meant that the passengers to whom immediate free pratique is given are entitled to select their own places of residence whilst subject to medical inspection.) Bilge water, after being disinfected, shall be changed and a fresh supply of drinking water shall be taken on board. Disinfection of such parts of ship as shall have been used by pest-stricken patients.

Special measures may be prescribed for ships carrying emigrants or for ships presenting bad hygienic conditions.

Merchandise transported by sea is treated in the same manner as merchandise transported by land in regard to disinfection.

Ships refusing to submit to the measures prescribed by the port authorities shall be free to go out to sea. They may be allowed to discharge their cargo after taking the necessary precautions, namely: (1) Isolation of the ship, crew, and passengers; (2) changing of bilge water after it has been disinfected; (3) taking on a fresh supply of drinking water.

To show how the authorities in India are dealing with the pest the following dispatch, read at conference February 19 by British delegate, from Governor of Bombay to Secretary of State for India, is here reproduced:

"Under Epidemic Diseases Act Government has empowered municipal commissioner, of his own authority and without reference to the magistrate, (1) to prohibit use of dwellings unfit for habitation; (2) to require vacation of buildings and premises for cleansing and disinfecting; (3) to require abatement of overcrowding; (4) to forcibly enter deserted buildings and cleanse and disinfect them; (5) to remove earth floors; (6) to cut off water connections; (7) to demolish whole or part of buildings unfit for habitation or dangerous to health; (8) to destroy infected bedding and clothing. Arrangements have been made for emptying all out-going trains at stations outside of Bombay and for strict medical inspection of all passengers."

THE CONVENTION.

The convention reads as follows:

"Their Majesties, etc., etc., etc., having decided to establish by conference the measures to be taken for keeping out the pest and for preventing it from spreading, and the measures of sanitary surveillance to be taken to that end, in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf, have named as their plenipotentiaries," [here follow the names]

"Who, after communicating to each other their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following measures applicable to districts infected by pest, as well as to all manner of communication therewith.

" I. They adopt the measures named and prescribed in the *Réglement Sanitaire Général* for keeping out the pest and for preventing its spreading, annexed to the present convention, which shall have the same force as if it were incorporated herein.

" II. The proper authorities of Morocco shall be urged to carry out measures similar to those prescribed in the above-mentioned *réglement* in the ports of that country.

" III. Countries that have not taken part in this conference or those that have not signed this convention, may accede thereto in the usual manner.

" Notice of adhesion shall be given to the Italian Government, through diplomatic channels, and it shall notify the other signatory governments.

" IV. The present convention shall remain in force for the space of five years from the date of the ratifications thereof. It shall, by tacit consent, be renewed every five years, unless, six months prior to the expiration of said period of five years, one of the high contracting parties shall have signified its intention to arrest the operation thereof.

" In case one of the Powers shall give notice of its intention to withdraw from this convention, said withdrawal shall effect that Power alone.

" V. The high contracting parties reserve the right of proposing through diplomatic channels, such modifications as they may deem it necessary to make to this convention or to its annexes.

" The present convention shall be ratified; the ratifications thereof shall be deposited at Rome as soon as possible after it shall have been signed, and within a year at latest from the date of the signing.

" In faith whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have signed this convention and have thereto affixed their seals.

" Done at Venice, the 19th day of March, 1897."

The following-named Powers signed without reserve: Austria-Hungary, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Montenegro, and Roumania.

The Powers that signed ad referendum were: Greece, Persia, Portugal, Servia, Spain, and Turkey.

The German representative signed with reserves as to certain measures to be taken in Europe.

The Swiss representative signed for the measures to be taken in Europe.

The representatives of Denmark, Sweden and Norway, and United States accepted the convention ad referendum.

Summing up the decisions of the conference, there seems to be but little danger of the pest reaching Europe this year—

First. Because the pest is only slightly contagious or infectious, but is due to local telluric conditions, and improved hygienic and social conditions throughout Europe make it difficult for the pest to get a foothold on this continent.

Second. Because it is not transmitted by the atmosphere or by running water.

Third. Because the Great Powers have done all that it was possible to do to discourage the Mussulman pilgrimage to Mecca.

Fourth. Because the sanitary measures prescribed for the surveillance of the Red Sea and Persian Gulf will be faithfully carried out.

WALLACE S. JONES,
*Consul-General of the United States at Rome, Diplomatic
Representative on the part of the United States to the
International Sanitary Conference at Venice.*

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Rome, Italy, March 29, 1897.

STATISTICAL REPORTS.

BAHAMAS—*Dunmore Town*.—Two weeks ended April 22, 1897. Population, 1,472. No deaths.

Governors Harbor.—Two weeks ended April 24, 1897. Estimated population, 1,500. No deaths.

Green Turtle Cay—Abaco.—Two weeks ended April 8, 1897. Estimated population, 3,900. No deaths.

Two weeks ended April 22, 1897. No deaths.

Inagua.—Month ended March 31, 1897. Estimated population, 1,200. No deaths.